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THE Recantation OF *DANIEL SCARGILL*,

Publickly made before the

UNIVERSITY OF Cambridge,

IN

GREAT St *MARIES*,

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The Recantation of Daniel Scargill, *publickly made before the Univerſity of* Cambridg, *&c.*

WHereas I *Daniel Scargill*, late Batchelour of Arts, and Fellow of *Corpus Chriſti* Colledg, in the Univerſity of *Cambridg*, being through the inſtigation of the Devil poſſeſſed with a fooliſh proud conceit of my own wit, and not having the fear of God before my eyes: Have lately vented and publickly aſſerted in the ſaid Univerſity, divers wicked, blaſphemous, and Atheiſtical poſitions, (particularly, That all right of Dominion is founded only in Power: That if the Devil were Omnipotent, he ought to be obeyed: That all moral Righteouſneſs is founded only in the poſitive Law of the Civil Magiſtrate: That the Scriptures of God are not Law further than they are enjoyned by the Civil Magiſtrate: That the Civil Magiſtrate is to be obeyed, though he ſhould forbid the Worſhip of God, or command Theft, Murder, and Adultery) profeſſing that I gloried to be an *Hobbiſt* and an *Atheiſt*, and vaunting, that *Hobbs* ſhould be maintained by *Daniel* that is by me. Agreeably unto which principles and poſitions, I have lived in great licentiouſneſs, ſwearing raſhly, drinking intemperately, boaſting my ſelf inſolently, corrupting others by my pernicious principles and example, to the high Diſhonour of God, the Reproach of the Univerſity, the Scandal of Chriſtianity, and the juſt offence of mankind. And whereas the Vicechancellour and Heads of the ſaid Univerſity, upon notice of theſe my foul enormities, upon a ful examination and clear conviction of theſe premiſed offences, after ſuſpenſion from my Degree, did expel me out of the ſaid Univerſity: Now I the ſaid *Daniel Scargill*, after frequent conſideration, ſtrict examination, and ſerious review of the ſaid Poſitions, do find by the grace of that God whom I had deny'd, that they are not only of dangerous and miſchievous conſequence, inconſiſtent with the Being of God, and deſtructive to human ſociety; but that they are utterly falſe, the ſuggeſtions of a lying ſpirit, wholly againſt my own judgment reſolved upon better conſideration, as well as againſt the common ſenſe of mankind. And I do freely acknowledg the proceedings and ſentence of my Governors, the Vicechancellor and Heads of the Univerſity, to be juſt and equal, agreeable to the duty of their place, and the Truſt repoſed in them: That they could not have done leſs to vindicate the Divine Honour, and ſuppreſs that Miſchief growing up in this Age, which no former hath known.

And now I adore and bleſs the higheſt Majeſty of God in his infinite mercy to me, that he hath not ſuffered me to go on unreclaimed in my enormous principles and practices, but hath made my face to be aſhamed, that I may ſeek his Name. *Righteouſneſs belongeth unto thee, O Lord; but unto me*, and to thoſe who have ſeduced me, and to thoſe who have been ſeduced by me, *ſhame and confuſion of face*. Oh what height of wickedneſs had I arrived

arrived unto! For I muſt confeſs my ſelf guilty of impleading the Divine Majeſty at the Tribunal of human Wit, making man judg whether God ſhould be God or no. Nay, whereas the Devil, my tempter, to whom I had hearkned, doth believe and tremble, I vile wretch have been void of the Faith and fear of God, in the manifold manifeſtations of him. Wherefore I humbly ask pardon of God above all, whom I have blaſphemed: of my Governors in the Univerſity, whom I have diſturbed; of all Chriſtians, and all men, for the great offence I have given unto all: more eſpecially of ſo many as have been miſled into any error or vice by me. And I do alſo humbly and earneſtly beſeech all men, eſpecially ſo many of the younger Scholars as have been ſeduced by me (who now abhor what I formerly boaſted to aſſert) that they beware, by my example, of the moſt ſubtile inſinuations of the Devil, in the vain oſtentation of their own wit. *That they lean not to their own underſtanding*, but conſult the holy Scriptures, the lively Oracles of God, That from thence they may learn φρονεῖν εἰς τὸ σωφρονεῖν *to be wiſe unto ſobriety*, as the holy Apoſtle with great wiſdom requires. And now I humbly hope, and truſt in the infinite mercy of that God againſt whom I had audaciouſly opened my unhallowed mouth, that He who hath promiſed that all ſin and blaſphemy ſhall be forgiven unto men (excepting only that reſolved malicious blaſphemy againſt the Holy Ghoſt) will be graciouſly pleaſed to glorifie his mercy in the forgiveneſs of my moſt deteſtable errors, and abominable ſins. And I thank God that he hath awakened me in good meaſure to a juſt deteſtation of the accurſed Poſitions aſſerted by me, and of all other like wicked principles.

Wherefore, I do here in the preſence of God, Angels and

and men, caſt my ſelf down in a deep dread of the juſt judgments and vengeance of God upon the accurſed Atheiſm of this age, acknowledging my ſelf to be highly guilty of the growth and ſpreading thereof; having contributed what my profane wit could deviſe, or my foul mouth expreſs, to inſtill it into others, to confirm them therein. And I do profeſs, I believe (and judg it moſt reaſonable ſo to believe) that the openly profeſſed Atheiſm of ſome, and the ſecret Atheiſm of others, is the accurſed root of all that abounding wickedneſs, perjury, ſacriledg, debauchery, and uncleanneſs, in this preſent age: That in a deep ſenſe of that wretched part I have acted in the propagating thereof, I do now abhor my ſelf in duſt and aſhes, and that from the bottom of my heart, I do diſclaim, renounce, deteſt, and abhor thoſe execrable Poſitions aſſerted by me or any other: particularly,

1. *That all right of Dominion is founded only in Power.*

2. *That all moral Righteouſneſs is founded only in the Law of the Civil Magiſtrate.*

3. *That the Holy Scriptures are made Law only by Civil Authority.*

4. *That whatſoever the Civil Magiſtrate commands, is to be obeyed, notwithſtanding contrary to Divine Moral Laws.*

5. *That there is a deſirable glory in being, and being reputed an Atheiſt:* which I implied when I expreſly affirmed that I gloried to be an *Hobbiſt* and an Atheiſt.

For theſe unhallowed aſſertions and expreſſions, I now find ſuch inward contrition and remorſe, that I pray

pray God his mercy may withhold me from relapſe, or his Judgments prevent it. But do I think that a bare Recantation can ſatisfie for my prodigious offences? No, Let me do penance all my days, ſubmitting my ſelf to Gods will, and the charity of pious minds; and whatſoever my portion may be in this world, Let me live and dye in the fear of God, and the faith of Chriſt, *Amen.*

Now leſt any one ſhould miſtake or ſuſpect this confeſſion and unfeigned renunciation of my ſinful and accurſed errors, for an act of civil obedience or ſubmiſſion in me, performed according to my former principles, at the command of my Superiors, in outward expreſſion of words, though contrary to my judgment and inward thoughts of my heart; or that I have not now expreſſed the moſt ſincere and ſecret ſenſe of my ſoul: I call the Searcher of all hearts to witneſs, that I loath and abhor ſuch practices as the baſeſt and moſt damnable hypocriſie: That from my heart and ſoul I deteſt ſuch principles in all perſons, as worſe than the baſeſt villanies and reſervations, which the Jeſuits are ſaid to practiſe or allow. And I openly avow, that I do acknowledg, that all perſons ſo principled, ought to be held by all mankind as the moſt dangerous and declared Enemies of the common Faith amongſt men. That they are not to be truſted upon any obligation of their Faith, or pretenſions to Piety, Loyalty, or common Honeſty, in any Corporation, Colledg, Univerſity, City, Common-wealth, or Kingdom: but, that by thoſe Principles, deſtructive to all Society and Commerce amongſt men, they may and do delude and defeat all Oaths and Proteſtations, all Faith given to God or man: They may and will comply, if their own Intereſt or Advantage prompt them to it, with any Invader or Uſurper: with any Faction or growing Sect, however deſtructive to all Order, and the very being of human Society in the world. I believe alſo, and openly avouch, That no Power upon earth, no perſwaſion or imagination about natural Right; no opinion in pretended Philoſophy, concerning ſelf-preſervation, can free me from the obligation that is now upon me, in this my open profeſſion of Repentance for my accurſed errors and grievous ſins, to ſpeak the truth in ſincerity before God and man.

This Recantation, and ſincere Profeſſion, I make willingly and freely of my own mind and choice: not in compliance with the command or will of any other, not upon deſign to gain a better opinion amongſt men in the world; not for any worldly advantage, profit, or ſelf-end of my own: but out of a hearty deteſtation of my foul errors and ſins: and I am glad of this opportunity to diſburden my ſoul, oppreſſed with the weight of the ſame.

So help me God.

DANIEL SCARGILL.